

RECREATION BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2007

Opened meeting at 6:01 P.M.

Approval of minutes, made some corrections, motions need to be made and seconded – Linda made motion to accept the minutes, Frank seconded – 4-0-0. Lisa had abstained on vote about ice rink at last meeting.

Budget notice – would like explanation – Linda says we don't need to get involved in most of the budget such as employee pay except we need to put both caretaker and maintenance person in budget. Oct. 5th budget goes to office for review. We had a shortfall in equipment fund. We had budgeted surplus that was not used to offset other cost, why? We did have some areas we ended with a plus – safety issues still have not been addressed, we need to put money in a “honey do” list, maybe \$5000.00 or another amount. Before pool opens we need to do a check to see what is fixed, what needs to be fixed, need inspection before and after.

Paul Clayton – Ice rink committee – last year the rink went up quick and had lots of help – filling it up was slow – mid-December to middle of March. They want to put rink up again at the Falls – will push the snow towards ditch in the back. Snow removal is done by volunteers within ice rink personnel - remove rink first week of April 2008, set up in December, 45' – 60' in addition to 100' x 50' side by side, two rinks would not be much more of a problem – Paul said putting the rink at the other end of the field would be better in the back corner, would be more level in that area. Dubois was a great help with water last year – fire department is willing to help if possible, but maybe not with the tanker. They are looking for a better way to get water – fire hydrants cannot be used because they have to be worked on after with safety ring. Need 50 gallon of water for each rink over the season to resurface the ice from time to time. You can get water from brook with pump. The committee is trying to raise money for a pump. Check with Bill about pump, what to buy. Looking for a more permanent site for ice rink. Paul would like to meet again with committee to talk about location in the Falls up beyond the softball field. Ken Johnson walked up there with Paul and thought it was a good area. Norwich University likes to do big projects for our area. Need to make sure public skating has a prime time for ice time. Paul said he would make sure free skating will be around meal time. With two rinks there should be no problem with hockey and free skating.

Angela – Boys and Girls Club – would like to know what worked and what did not work. We provided an open camp – provided them with meals – counselors are responsible for all clean up. It was mentioned that there were days when messes were left and not cleaned up. Angela was not there in the afternoon. There must be a 21 year old in charge. Every day there were clothes on the fence and it did not look good. The door on the dug-out is locked with their stuff in it. Leave it locked and leave the key at the Municipal office. It was suggested to put up a line in the tent for clothes. Need to keep area cleaned up. The Boys and Girls club are not responsible for paint in the drinking fountain. The money system, this year was much better. Specialized kids are not counted in their numbers and had to have more one on one with counselors – Boys and Girls Club rented the dumpster at the Park – flowers pots looked very nice and got lots of good comments. They took advantage of special pool events and it was a nice touch this year. Next year will try to get together for input from this group and the Pool to make it work even better. They serve meals to kids 5-12. Next year need to address areas that we were concerned with this year.

Eric Mears – Northfield North Stars baseball team – we are meeting with all groups to try to help make things work better – one team out of 22. He is President and manager -35 years and up, wooden bat hardball league – men and women baseball team. They do have insurance. There are some Northfield players on this team, schedule is set in March. Sunday end of April to September, play every Sunday, work around high school baseball and soccer, 12-15 players on the teams. They charge a fee for State and Federal and umpire – charge the players a fee. Field is maintained by them; expect to pay a fee for field use. \$25.00 to \$50.00 a game is reasonable - \$200.00 to \$300.00 is very high. All we try to do is collect an amount to recoup some of our costs - lawn needs to be mowed more often after school is over, town takes over after school is out. Put your schedule on the team calendar by contacting Trans-Video.

Susan Barnard – 1975-1995 non-profit, had insurance – Red Mitten – Creative Ed. and Senior Center were all in one area in the beginning. It was a loose organization – used the school for mailings and that helped – Paid teachers 20% - 80% went back to Creative Ed – made donations to school, gymnastic equipment – sewing machines, etc. – lots of people helped out, volunteered their time – gave lots of different classes – computer, typing, quilting, cooking, sewing, knitting, etc. Golf, tennis, bird watching, volleyball. – Northfield News printed for them. Organizations or businesses would sponsor Creative Ed. She has always enjoyed doing the work and it takes lots of dedicated people to make it work. Reach out to groups and anyone who is willing to give us a hand getting the word out and helping out.

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Back to regular meeting, discussion of budget. No one really had a chance to look over the budget and did not feel we were ready to make decisions on it tonight as the hour was getting late. We did decide to give Linda some questions to take to Nancy to help us figure out what we are responsible for. We will have to have another meeting prior to the next meeting to finish budget.

The next meeting will be on November 5, 2007 as two of the selectmen will be working with us from time to time to iron out some issues. There being no more business at hand Lori made the motion to adjourn and Lisa seconded it. 4-0-0